

CARR-1583

626 Francis Scott Key Hwy., Keymar Vicinity

Summary:

The Cover's Tannery property is eligible for the National Register under Criteria C, in that the house and barn are excellent examples of Germanic-Georgian farmhouse architecture and early bank barns from the period 1790-1820. The barn is a rare early frame survival that illustrates bank barn forms and construction technology as it first evolved from log to frame structures. The house shows the influence of Renaissance planning and architectural forms on the common vernacular building of the German population in Carroll County in particular, and the Pennsylvania Culture Region in general. This was at least in part a result of acculturation due to close association with Anglo-American neighbors.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form may also be used for entering properties into the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and the Maryland Register of Historic Properties.

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cover's Tannery

other names/site number CARR-1583

2. Location

street & number 626 Francis Scott Key Highway ☐ not for publication

city or town Keymar ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Carroll code 013 zip code 21757-9228

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Cover's Tannery

CARR-1583

Registration Form page 2
Carroll County, MD

Name of Property

site/inventory number

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

3

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register****6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/Agricultural out-building

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone, Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Wood, Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

PLACE NARRATIVE ON CONTINUATION SHEETS

Cover's Tannery

CARR-1583

Carroll County, MD

Name of Property

site/inventory number

County and State

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

C.1790-1910

Significant Dates**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation**Architect/Builder****Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Cover's Tannery

CARR-1583

Carroll County, MD

Name of Property

site/inventory number

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.985 A

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short, Historic Planner

organization Carroll County Dept. of Planning and Development date May 18, 1999

street & number 225 North Center Street telephone (410) 386-2145

city or town Westminster state MD zip code 21157

Additional Documentation

(Attach the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name John & Katie Fieseler

street & number 626 Francis Scott Key Highway telephone (410) 775-0389

city or town Keymar state MD zip code 21757-9228

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No.CARR-1583

Description

Section 7 Page 1

Covers Tannery is located at 626 Francis Scott Key Highway, approximately ½ mile southwest of Keymar, 5 ½ miles southwest of Taneytown and 4 miles northwest of Union Bridge, in northwest Carroll County Maryland. The property is located on the northwest side of the road and faces the road. The road parallels a ridge line behind the house and barn, thus these structures are banked into the hillside which slopes up behind them. The complex consists of the log house with a stone addition, a frame bank barn, a frame summer kitchen and a cmu garage. The house faces southeast toward the road and has a rubble stone foundation, it is a two story structure with five bays on the first story and four on the second story. The building is two bays deep, it has a log structure with beaded bottom edge weather boards on the first story of the southeast elevation and plain weather boards elsewhere. It has a gable roof with wood shakes and a northeast to southwest ridge. There is an interior brick chimney on each gable end.

The southeast elevation on the first story has a center entrance with a wide door frame and a new door set in it. The doorway has been narrowed with infill on either side of the door. There are two 9/6 sash on either side of the house that are old but not original to this structure. They are set in morticed and tenoned and pegged frames that have ovolo back bands. The first story has a one story five bay porch that has recently been rebuilt to match the remains of the earlier porch. The second story is four bays and they do not align with the openings of the first story. Each bay has a 6/6 sash set in a wide frame that has an ovolo back band, these frames do not appear to be pegged. On the southwest end flush with the southeast elevation is a 1 ½ story 2 bay by 1 bay wing of rubble stone. The southeast elevation of the wing has a 6/6 sash with head cut trim in the south bay and a new door in an original frame in the east bay. There is a wood box cornice and an interior brick chimney on the southwest gable end.

The southwest elevation of the wing has a four light sash set in a small opening to the west of the first story, there is a 6/6 sash in a new frame in the gable end south of the chimney. The northwest elevation of the wing has a new door in an original frame in the north bay and a 6/6 sash with new trim in the west bay. The roofing on this elevation is corrugated metal and there are three new sky lights. The roof continues down at the same pitch to cover a porch across the entire northwest elevation of the wing. The north end of this porch has new weather board infill.

On the northwest elevation of the main block, the first story is three bays with a center entrance that has a beaded-edge-vertical-board storm door with a 1-light sash set into it. The door frame is wide and has a coveto and bead back band. Beneath the storm door is another door of beaded-edge-vertical boards with a six-light sash set in it. There is a 6/6 sash to either side of the doorway and the frames match the door frame. There is a cellar bulk head below the north bay. On the second story the end bays have the same 6/6 sash and frames as the first story, there is no

Description

Section 7 Page 2

opening in the center bay. On the northeast elevation the first and second stories each have two 6/6 sash with a new trim, the gable end has two four-light sash.

There is a cellar under the east end of the house only, there is a summer beam that runs east/west and the joists run north/south and dewlap each other on top of the summer beam. The joists are hewn on all four sides and some of them have grooves along them to hold waddle and daub. Some of the joists are reused as they have mortices in them and it is not clear whether the grooved joists are original were also reused. On the east elevation south of the summer beam is a stone fireplace support. North of the summer beam is a diagonal joist suggesting a corner chimney was in this location, but there is no stone support for it here now. The north end of the existing stone support is finished and does not appear that anything was removed from it. This stone fireplace support is not tied in to the foundation.

The first story has a center passage double pile plan. In the center passage the original front door jamb survives, the doorway is about 3ft 10" wide and on either side are pentail holes with small holes below them suggesting that the hinges must have had rat tails and also that there must have been double doors here. The passage has new flooring, new baseboard and new architraves. The walls are hand planned beaded-edge tongue-in-groove vertical board, there is new crown molding in the passage. The doorway to the southwest room had been widened at one point and has now been narrowed to its original width but has been relocated slightly farther north than its original position. The door in this doorway was moved here from between the southeast and northeast rooms. It is a six panel door hung on HL hinges that are original to the door, the door has a slide bolt and a ghost of a rimlock. The door to the southeast room is similar to that now leading to the southwest room but is currently stored in the barn. The door to the northeast room is of beaded-edge-tongue-in-groove boards that line up with the boards of the wall. The door has wrought dove tail hinges a wood stock lock nailed to the door and a wrought iron slide bolt below the lock. Above the stock lock is part of a suffolk latch with keyhole, on the passage side of the door is the ghost of a large suffolk latch with a tear drop cusp. The rear or north door of the passage is an exterior door of beaded-edge-vertical boards with tapered batons, it is hung on tapered strap hinges that have round ends and have rat tails on the pintels. There is a small rim-lock and the ghost of a large earlier rimlock. The winder stair is on the west side set to the north and is not in the passage. The doorway to the stairs is unusually wide and there is no evidence that there was a door here originally. The stairs have been repaired with new risers the treads were reused but were not original according to the owner.

The southeast room has no flooring, part of the baseboard is original and the rest was made to imitate at a later unknown date. There are beaded edge vertical board walls on the north and west elevations. The south and east elevations have diagonal riven lath and plaster over top of white washed logs according to the owner. The south window jambs are pegged to the logs, they

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No.CARR-1583

Description

Section 7 Page 3

have ovolo back bands that appear to have been taken off and put back backwards in order to get more depth when the wall was plastered. The existing sash was replaced 2/2 sash. On the east elevation set to the north is a brick fireplace with a small opening and very slight splay to the jambs. The mantle is currently in storage in the barn, it is of pine with cut nails and has plain pilaster strips and Tudor arch frieze, it also has a deep ovolo bed mold. South of the fireplace on the wall is sawn vertical lath that suggest that this fireplace is a later alteration and that the earlier one was larger. The window on the east elevation has mitered architrave with an ogee back band, there was originally chair rail in this room that had been hacked off according to the owner.

The northeast room has new flooring and no baseboard, chair rail survives on the north elevation. The north window matches those on the south elevation of the southeast room and the east window matches the east elevation of the southeast room. This room has new crown molding.

In the southwest room the ceiling plaster was removed, the joist above are sash sawn and run north/south they have a half lap tenon into a hewn summer beam that runs east/west. The south wall has been studded out to support the joists in the southwest corner which were raised to take the sag. On the west elevation is a fireplace of brick with a small opening and slight splayed jambs, there is no mantle here. The two bottom logs in the center of the west wall are cut out probably indicate a larger fireplace that was here originally. There was also a ghost on the wall to the north of the fireplace indicating a wall that divided this room into two rooms originally. This wall had been taken down and a new wall put up in a slightly different location, this later wall is now gone. South of the fireplace is a door opening leading to the stone wing, according to the owner the jambs for this opening are not pegged to the log ends. Also on the west elevation, north of the fireplace is a small window opening that had been lathed and plastered over, it has a morticed and tenoned and pegged frame. The frames are also pegged to the log ends, there was a shutter found in here that has tapered batons and was hung on strap hinges with a round pointed end. The north elevation has chair rail and the window here has the same details as the southeast room.

The wing is set two steps below the floor level of the main block, the flooring is been replaced with reused material. There is original chair rail on the walls, the joists are exposed above and run north/south. They have beaded bottom edges, there was a deteriorated frame wall on the east elevation that was taken down to expose the original logs of the main block. The south elevation window and north elevation door and window all have morticed and tenoned and pegged frames. On the east elevation is a large cooking fireplace set to the north with straight stone jambs that have had the plaster removed and have been repointed. There is a brick hearth and a wood mantle tree, the mantle has been removed. In the north corner of the back wall of the fireplace is a four light sash set in what could be an original opening for a bake oven. There are now brick

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No.CARR-1583

Description

Section 7 Page 4

jambes that have been repointed, there is a wood lentil with circular saw marks. In the southwest corner is an enclosed winder stair with two steps set below a beaded-edge-vertical-board door hung on tapered strap hinges with round ends. The door has a suffix latch with tear drop cusps, there is an original closet door set below the stairs and has beaded-edge-vertical board doors with straight batons and strap hinges with pintails and has a suffix latch with lima bean cusps. A similar new door has been added above this one. On the north elevation set to the east is a doorway to the enclosed section of the rear porch of the wing, this doorway has a beaded-edge-vertical board door and a plain head cut trim. It once had a suffix latch but now has a Dutch elbow lock. The interior of this room has been renovated and the west wall has been moved westward, the door has been cut down and is probably not original to this opening.

The second story of the main block has a center passage in the north half with two rooms across the south and a room in each northern corner. In the passage the stairway has square balusters in a square newel post with a molded cap. The hand rail is also molded. There is a straight run of stairs to the attic that is enclosed with beaded-edge-tongue-in groove boards that appear to be nailed with t-headed nails. The doorway to the attic has beaded-edge-vertical boards with straight batons. The door is hung on cast iron butt hinges marked "T.CLARK'S COM~N". The northeast chamber door has head cut trim with no evidence of a back band. The door opening may have been narrowed with the addition of one vertical board. The door is of tongue and groove vertical board with no beads and has three straight batons, it is hung on hl hinges, nailed to the door and wall, it now has a cast iron rim lock with mineral knob that replaces an earlier lock and knob. The southeast chamber door is set at an angle and has the same head cut trim as the northeast chamber door. Several boards above the door are flush and have no tongues and grooves and no beads, this may be because the summer beam projects into the passage at this location. The door has three batons and is hung on hl hinges, it had a rim lock that is now gone. The southwest chamber door has head cut trim and applied ogee back band fastened with rose head nails. The door has two batons, there is an escutcheon with florida leaves on top and bottom on the passage side of the door, while the room side has a Dutch elbow lock. Nailed to the door with wrought nails, this lock has a dead bolt at the bottom. The door is hung on strap hinges that are tapered with round end and instead of pintles it has a dove tail that is nailed to the jamb with wrought nails. The northwest chamber door has the same architrave latch, escutcheon, strap hinges and batons as the southwest chamber door. The floor runs east/west around the second story and is random width pine.

The southeast chamber has board wall on the west elevation and plaster walls on the north, south and east elevations. The summer beam runs through this room and is plastered and has a flush board on the soffit. The window on the east has architrave with mitered joints and an ogee back band, the jambes are covered with boards. The south windows have an ovolo applied to the jamb boards. The northeast chamber has a board wall on the west elevation and plaster walls on

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1583

Description

Section 7 Page 5

the north, south and east elevations. The east window is identical to the east window in the south east chamber. The jamb boards have small wire nails. The north window is the same as the south windows in the southeast chamber.

In the southwest chamber the east wall is of boards on the north, south and west walls are plaster. The south windows are identical to the south windows at the southeast chamber. (Move to elsewhere) the north wall has vertical boards above the doorway and just to the west of it between the opening and the ovolo back band suggesting that the plaster was added later. In the northwest chamber the south wall is of alternating overlapped vertical boards, these are covered with riven lath fastened with cut nails, a doorway was recently cut through here. To the west end of this wall there is later infill of sawn lath near the chimney suggesting that the original chimney was larger and that the infill was necessary after the chimney was replaced with a smaller one. The log wall in the west elevation has white wash with diagonal riven lath and plaster on top of it. There is a plaster wall on the north and a board wall on the east elevation.

The attic stairs are fastened with t-headed rock nails and the attic floor is face nailed with these same nails. The rafters are hewn top and bottom only for the most part and have a center tenon and peg at the ridge. There are collar beams that have been cut out and were made into knee wall studs. These studs have now been removed as well. The collar beams were fastened with half dove tail, half laps and were pegged. The rafters are cut off at the foot and fastened at the top log or a false plate. Fished along side of the rafters are small pieces of taper wood and extend out over the eave. The four light casements in the attic are hung on plain cast iron butt hinges and the window frames are fastened with cut nails. The bottom sides of the attic floor boards and the sides of the joist below are heavily whitewashed. The joists run north/south and are sawn.

About 110' north of the house is a barn with a four-bay that faces southeast towards the road. The barn does not align neatly with the house, nor does it face in the exact same direction. The barn has an asymmetrical profile with a rubble stone lower story, portions of which have been removed on the southeast and beaded-edge-vertical board upper story. It has a gable roof of corrugated metal with a northeast to southwest ridge. On the southeast elevation the lower story has a door opening for a Dutch door with five wood louvers above. To the east the wall has been removed and there are two mortices in the sill above probably for the frame of a vent. Then a flush stone wall which was probably one side of a second doorway to the east set in the stone wall is a wood louver vent, then a Dutch door hung on tapered strap hinges with round or tear drop ends, above this doorway is another wood louver. The east end of the barn has been converted to a milking parlor. The stone wall was completely removed and a cmu wall was constructed beneath the forebay, this wall has a center door on rollers and four 2/2 sash on each side. The upper story on the southeast elevation has five plain wood louver vents, in the center is a gabled

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1583

Description

Section 7 Page 6

wall dormer with two beaded-edge-vertical-board door. To the south of the dormer is a new vertical board door on strap hinges probably set in an original opening as this doorway was originally the center of the barn. The eastern most barn and vent were added to the barn. There is a vertical slate vent in the frieze just below the eave across the whole southeast elevation of the barn.

On the southwest elevation the lower story stone work has traces of gray paint with white penciling. There are two diamond-in-section wood louver vents in morticed and tenoned and pegged frames. The stone wall of the lower story continues south to the end of the forebay and there is a semicircular arched opening with ashlar, keystone and voussoirs. This opening now has a slate door on tapered strap hinge with a round end. The upper story has a wagon shed of 2x4 construction attached to it with a corn crib at the southwest end of the wagon shed. Below where the wagon shed is attached there is new siding and there are no louvers. Above the wagon shed roof is original siding with a semicircular wood louvered lunette, the barn has tapered rake boards. On the northwest elevation the lower story has wood louver vent in the west bay, the upper story has two pair of new aluminum wagon doors on rollers with no other openings. To the west of the doorways the siding has a drip molding below it. The northeast bay of this elevation has plain vertical board siding that is wire nailed. (Move to elsewhere) the northwest roof has inverted v-seam metal roofing. On the northeast elevation the lower story has a cmu milk room added to the east bay. This has a gable roof with a northeast to southwest ridge and has asphalt shingles. There are two six-light steel sash on the southeast and northwest elevations and one on the northeast elevation. The north bay of the barn has an altered opening with two pair of 2/2 sash. The upper story has two vents set below two vents with a twelve light sash in the gable end. On the lower story of the barn the northeast end has been converted to a milking parlor and has no significant details exposed. The southwest end has a hewn summer beam that runs northeast to southwest, the posts have been removed and lolly columns put in there place. The joists are hewn top and bottom inside the barn and on all four sides beneath the forebay. Several of the joists are reused v-notch corner logs of varying lengths and they appear to be added later as they are often set close to other joists and there is no flooring above them. Those joists that span the whole width of the barn appear not to have been reused. The southwest wall has a peg rail that acts as a lentil for the vents into the stone wall and a wood box set into the wall in the south corner. There are no stalls or other original details left in the lower story.

In the upper story of the barn the northeast bay was added creating a floor plan with a haemal on each end and two center threshing floors. The original granary is in the south corner over the forebay, there are added bents along the southwest side of the south center threshing floor set inside the southwest haemal. The original bents are roughly sash sawn and have three posts. The forebay is framed separately by smaller posts and girts. The roof is supported by purlin post truss, the rafters are sawn and appear to have a center tenon and peg at the ridge. There is a steel

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1583

Description

Section 7 Page 7

hay fork track in the ridge. The original northwest elevation and bays have or had a sill morticed and tenoned and pegged between the posts of the bent above the floor level. There is then a center post between this sill and the plate and there are also down braces between the sill and plate. This arrangement survives in the southwest bay, but has been cut out in the north center bay for a doorway when this bay was converted to a threshing floor. The northeast bay has a circular sawn heavy timber frame that is morticed and tenoned and pegged with a purlin post supporting the roof framing. The rafters are 2x4's that are mitered at the ridge. The girts are supported by blocks nailed to the original posts.

The summer kitchen is about 30' southwest of the house, it is a 1 ½ story 2 bay by 1 bay structure with German siding and corner boards and has a rubble stone foundation. The gable roof has corrugated metal and a southeast to northwest ridge. The northeast elevation has a window opening in the east bay and a vertical board door in the west bay. The north elevation has a window opening in the gable end. The southwest elevation has a window opening in the west bay. The southeast elevation has two 6/6 sash with head cut trim, there is a cmu 2 car garage set between the house and the summer kitchen. Contributing Resources 3.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No.CARR-1583

Significance

Section 8 Page 1

The Cover's Tannery property is eligible for the National Register under Criteria C, in that the house and barn are excellent examples of Germanic-Georgian farmhouse architecture and early bank barns from the period 1790-1820. The barn is a rare early frame survival that illustrates bank barn forms and construction technology as it first evolved from log to frame structures. The house shows the influence of Renaissance planning and architectural forms on the common vernacular building of the German population in Carroll County in particular, and the Pennsylvania Culture Region in general. This was at least in part a result of acculturation due to close association with Anglo-American neighbors.

In March 1798, Jacob Cover, Sr. received the deed for two tracts of land he purchased from Andrew Kaldenbach (Cottelbough) of Georgetown for \$500. The tracts were 25 acres and 18 ¼ acres, and they comprised the first land he had purchased in what was then Frederick County, just east of the Monacacy River. The same year the tax assessor recorded that his property held a log house, barn, and tanyard. Unfortunately, the records are not detailed enough to determine whether the existing log house and barn are those listed in 1798, and whether Cover built them and the tannery or whether they existed previously. As Cover had probably purchased the land several years prior to the execution of the deed, he could have been responsible for all the improvements.

While it is not possible to determine whether the house and barn predate or postdate 1798, both structures are consistent with a construction period of c.1790-1820. The house has remarkable similarities to the John Sheets Farms (CARR-1581) of c.1798-1808, with a center passage, double-pile plan with vertical-board partition walls and a corner fireplace originally in the southeast room. The stairway is not set in the narrow passage, but instead is enclosed and set just off the passage, very much like the Peter Wentz Farmstead in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. While the first story has undergone numerous changes, the second story is virtually pristine and contains an excellent variety of early hardware. The barn is also an excellent and rare survival. Most barns in 1798 were of log, so frame barns built before 1820 were always rare. Most from that period in Carroll County have either burned or deteriorated.

Jacob Cover (b.29 Dec. 1758) married Elizabeth Rudisell (b.23 Jul. 1763), daughter of Tobias Rudisell, in 1785, and they had five children before her death on 21 August 1801. Their fourth child was John, who would follow Jacob in the tannery business. Jacob then married Elizabeth's younger sister, Susanna (b.26 Nov. 1775) and they had two children. Susanna's younger brother, Ludwick (b.25 Feb. 1778) also became a tanner, and his brick house of c.1807, at the west end of Taneytown, is already on the National Register (CARR-213). Ludwick's father, Tobias, was a blacksmith, so it

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No.CARR-1583

Significance

Section 8 Page 2

is possible that Ludwick apprenticed with Jacob Cover and learned the trade there. Both the Covers and Rudisells were members of the Taneytown Lutheran Church, and must have known each other before the families became linked by marriage. Tanning ran in both families, and most of the local tanners must have had connections with each other, as Ludwick's son Thomas Rudisell took over his tannery, and Ludwick's daughter Alice married Lewis M. Motter, who by 1850 was a tanner in Emmitsburg.

The 1808 map of Frederick County does not show this property, though that map is nowhere near complete. Nothing more is known of the property until the death of Jacob Cover in September 1823. In his will, Jacob Cover provided for his widow, Susanna. He gave her the use, or income from the renting of, his tavern at the fork in the road north of his dwelling, during her life. She also received \$50 a year for her life, and a collection of furniture, including a bed, three tables, a corner cupboard, a case of drawers, a bureau, seven chairs, a ten plate stove, two carpets, four pair of window curtains, and other necessary items, for her life. Their children would divide these items after her death. In addition, Susanna received the legacy that she and her husband had inherited from her father. This included a black slave named Maria, two cows, a bed, her sidesaddle, and \$800. Taken together, this enabled her to live her remaining years comfortably, though she died the following February in 1824.

Jacob Cover was still actively engaged in the tanning business, judging from his inventory. This included 91 cords of Chestnut, Spanish Oak, and Black Oak bark and 606 skins or hides, in various states of completion, from "ruff", to "stiff", in "tan", marked and finished. Most numerous were calf skins, which were valued at from \$1.00 each, in the rough, to \$8.00 each when finished. Cover was also tanning sheep, hog, horse, and dog skins. Much of the leather was specified as upper leather or sole leather and so was clearly intended for shoes. Cover also had tanners and currier's tools, a bark wheel, which was probably for grinding bark, and a stove in his tanshop. He also owned a complete collection of farming implements, and was raising corn, wheat, rye, flax, and hay. He had a vegetable garden that included potatoes, and three horses, two cows (besides the two willed to Susanna), and seven hogs. He also owned four male slaves, Phillip (\$325), Tom (\$200), George (\$130), and David (\$80), in addition to Maria (\$60). This was unusual for Carroll County. The slaves probably worked in both the tannery and in the fields, and Phillip, worth \$325, may have been a skilled tanner. It is possible that tanners could not easily hire help for what was notably a foul-smelling occupation, and thus Cover relied on slaves, but George Crouse's Tannery (CARR-1424) relied on white labor in the 1840's.

John Cover purchased his father's 101 acre farm and tannery for \$2,850. He continued the tanning business, and like his father, owned slaves. He may have been the

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No.CARR-1583

Significance

Section 8 Page 3

John Cover for whom a reward was offered in 1814 after the beating death of a slave, though he would have been young since he was probably born c.1795-1799. In 1852, his slaves were Harriet – age 34, George – age 3, and Sarah – age 2 ½. The latter two were likely Harriet's children. There is no evidence that John Cover used slave labor in the tannery. The tanning business was still a lucrative one, apparently, as Cover had \$1,250 in a Maryland bank and held \$1,400 in private securities. The farm was worth \$2,520 and the tanning stock worth \$1,860. This profitability is even more evident in the inventory of John Cover's estate, taken after his death in late 1864. The value of his railroad bonds and bank shares totaled \$19,510. In addition, his interest in a tannery in Herbaugh's Valley, in Frederick County, was alone valued at \$27,640. This must have been a considerable operation, since his own farm would sell for \$7,000. Most of the rooms in his house had carpets or matting on the floors and were heated by stoves. The kitchen had a cooking stove. Tannery items were not listed in John Cover's inventory.

This may have been because he was no longer running it, but had leased it to another, as in 1866 Thomas F. Cover was assessed for \$9,000 worth of leather hides, bark, and other tannery items, and in 1868 Lycurgus Miller was residing there. Miller may have simply been farming the land. It was in 1868 that the farm was advertised for sale. At that time, Francis Scott Key Highway was known as York Road, as it was the road from Frederick to York. The farm was 121 ½ acres, with about 30 acres in timber. The remaining acreage held an orchard, the house, barn, tannery and all associated buildings and yards, meadows, and six fields, each with water in it. Subtracting all the land that was not part of the fields, these fields must have averaged about 10 to 14 acres. The advertisement noted that "the improvements consist of a large two-story weather-boarded dwelling house, with back building attached, in good repair; good bank barn, wagon shed, carriage house, granary, smokehouse...". This is the first mention of the kitchen wing, which it calls a back building, though in reality it is a side wing. Of course, by this time, John Cover already had a cook stove, so the wing probably dates to much earlier, and may have been added by Cover in the 1820's, after he purchased the house from his father's estate. The mortised and tenoned and pegged window and doorframes are typically found on structures before 1830, but there are few other features with which to confidently date the construction of the wing.

The advertisement added that "There is also attached to this valuable property a tannery, in the best possible condition, being but recently fitted up, sufficient to tan 3000 side of leather per year, and has a good run of custom, and is supplied with a fountain of water sufficient for all tanning purposes." The description did not list the number of vats or size of the tanning house, unfortunately. The property was purchased by John Biehl, whom it appears from the tax records was a tenant farmer in Frederick County. Based on

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No.CARR-1583

Significance

Section 8 Page 4

the 1876 tax records, Biehl was farming but not running the tannery, and may have continued to lease it to others. Biehl owned five horses, eight cows, eleven hogs and \$175 worth of farm implements, but had no stock in trade related to tanning, such as hides or bark. The fate of the tannery in this period is not known, but it almost certainly had ceased operation by the time Charles Garber bought the property in 1910, after John Biehl's death. Small, local industries such as tanning often could not compete in the late nineteenth century with larger, more mechanized urban concerns, and they began to disappear. The property then became solely a farm, but even this was destined not to last, and the buildings have been cut off on about three acres. They are currently undergoing restoration.

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Periods:
Rural Agriculture Inten. A.D.1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D.1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D.1870-1930

Historic Period Themes:
Agriculture
Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Types:
Rural Vernacular
Small Family Farm

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1583

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Section 9 Page 1

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J. Thomas Scarf, Hist. of W. MD., pp. 843-4

Martenet's 1862 Map

L, G, & S Atlas, 1877

Rand McNally Atlas, 1917

CARR-1583
626 Francis Scott Key Highway

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS ACTION	COMMENTS
Charles E. & Beverly A. Norris (Jr.) (wf)	?	John J. Fiesler	?	13 Dec. 1990	LWS 1251	376	Deed fee simple	3.0475 ac.
Harman E. Luzier, etal.	?	Charles E. & Beverly A. Norris (Jr.) (wf)	?	28 Mar. 1988	LWS 1074	8.8	Deed fee simple	\$55,000 3.0393 ac.
Robert S. & Constance Ann Poole (wf)	Carroll	Harman E. Luzier, etal.	?	8 Oct. 1982	LWS 1049	167	Deed fee simple	\$127,500 48.8755 ac.
Robert S. Poole atty. for Edith S. Poole, widow	Carroll	Robert S. & Constance Ann Poole (wf)	?	11 July 1977	CCC 673	644	Deed fee simple	\$10.00 83+ ac. - 2+ ac.
Oscar C. & Regina E. Hoover (wf)	Carroll	Leonard s. & Edith S. Poole (wf)	Montgomery Co. MD	31 Mar. 1956	EAS 259	329	Deed fee simple	\$10.00 83+ ac. - 2+ ac.
Merle F. & Mary J. Crumbacker (wf)	Carroll	Oscar C. & Regina E. Hoover (wf)	Carroll	13 Apr. 1948	EAS 198	161	Deed fee simple	\$10.00 Ernest Choice, Venture Clarks Discovery, Fuss Purchase 83+ ac.
Union Bridge Banking & Trust Co.	Union Bridge MD Corp.	Merle F. & Mary J. Crumbacker (wf)	Carroll	23 Apr. 1936	EMM 163	591	Deed fee simple	\$10.00 1. 1014 ac. 2. 8+ ac.
Martha Alice Garber widow	Carroll	Union Bridge Banking & Trust Co.	MD Corp. Union Bridge	6 Jun. 1935	EMM 162	275	Deed fee simple	\$10.00 88 ac.
Edwin H. Sharretts & wf. Margaret V.	Carroll	Charles E Garber & wf. Martha Alice	Carroll	28 Sept. 1910	ODG 115	331	Deed fee simple	\$1.00 part Fred. & pt. Carroll Co. 111+ ac.
Charles E Garber & wf. Martha Alice	Carroll	Edwin H. Sharretts	Carroll	27 Sept. 1910	ODG 115	330	Deed fee simple	\$1.00 111+ ac.
John D. Biehl & Martha Alice Garber execs.	Carroll	Charles E Garber	Carroll	27 Sept. 1910	ODG 115	328	Deed fee simple	John Biehl will Dec. 1908 JJS 10-384 \$5500.00 1. Ernest Choice 20 3/8 ac. 2. Venture 17 1/4 ac. 3. Addn. to

CARR-1583
626 Francis Scott Key Highway

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENT
								Clarks Discovery 63 ac. 4. Fuss Purchase 19 1/2 ac. - 3+ ac. - 5+ ac. = 111 ac. total
Joseph Cover, trustee	Frederick Co.	John Biehl	?	31 May 1869	JBB 37	392	Deed fee simple	Public sale \$7,000.00 1. 20 3/3 ac. 2. 17 3/4 ac. 3. 63 ac. 4. 19 1/2 ac.
Susan Cover, etal.	Frederick & Carroll	Joseph Cover	?	10 Nov. 1868	JBB 36	355	Deed fee simple	John Cover d. intestate 1864 Susan is widow 101+ ac. 2 deeds
David Birely, Lewis Birely, execs. of Jacob Birely	Frederick, Carroll, Frederick	John Cover	Carroll	20 Nov. 1847	JS 8	110	Deed Indenture	\$375.00 Fuss Purchase on Fred. town to Bruceville Rd. 19 1/2 ac.
Jacob Cover, John Hiner, execs. of Jacob Cover, Senr.	Frederick Co.	John Cover, son of Jacob Cover, Senr.	Frederick Co.	30 July 1825	Fred./JS 24	29	Deed Indenture	Jacob Cover will 6 May 1823 \$2,800.00 101+ ac. x. 203/8 ac. Ernest Choice (was 25 ac.) y. Venture 17 1/4 ac. z. Addn. to Clarks Discovery 63 ac.
Andrew Kaldenbach (Caldenbaugh)	George Town Montgomery Co. MD	Jacob Cover, Sr.	Frederick Co.	22 Mar. 1798	WR 16	338	Deed Indenture	L500 x. Ernest Choice 25 ac. y. Venture 18 1/4+ ac. reserving use of spring on Venture for Evan Carmack

CARR-1583
626 Francis Scott Key Highway

CHAIN OF TITLE

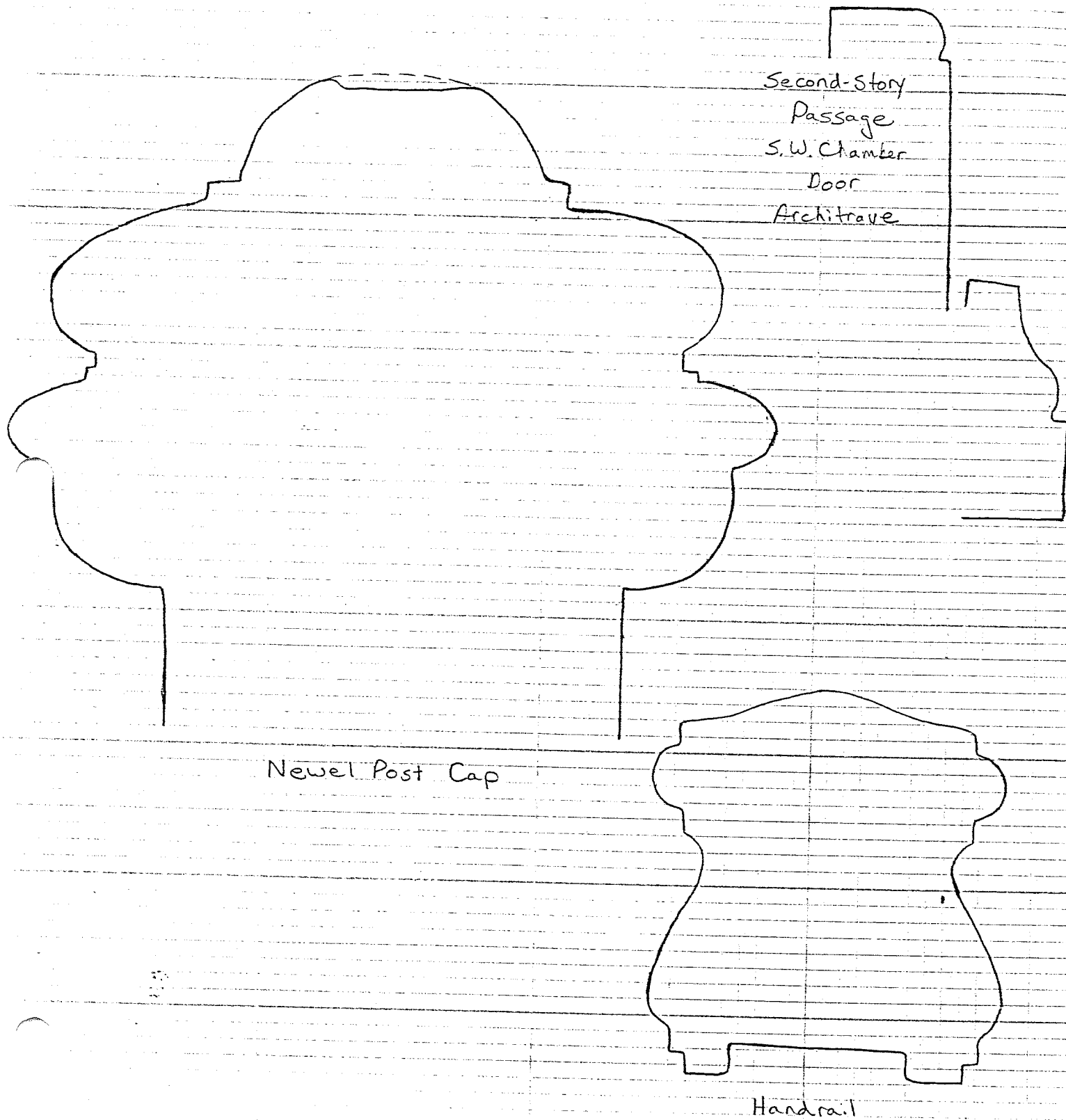
GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS. ACTION	COMMENTS
Evan & Mary Carmach (wf)	Frederick Co.	Jacob Cover, Sr.	Frederick Co.	20 May 1799	WR 18	438	Deed	[no prev ref.] L360 c0 ac. remaining part of a. below some land sold to Andrew Caultenbaugh
William Diggs	Montgomery Co.			18 May 1791	Couln't find it in Grantor/Grantee indexes			115 ac. Addn. to Clarks Discovery patented to Wm. Diggs 13 Aug. 1787 son of John Diggs, for whom it was surveyed
no other deeds to Jacob Cover								

1/4

626 Francis Scott Key Hwy
Moulding Profiles

CARR-1583

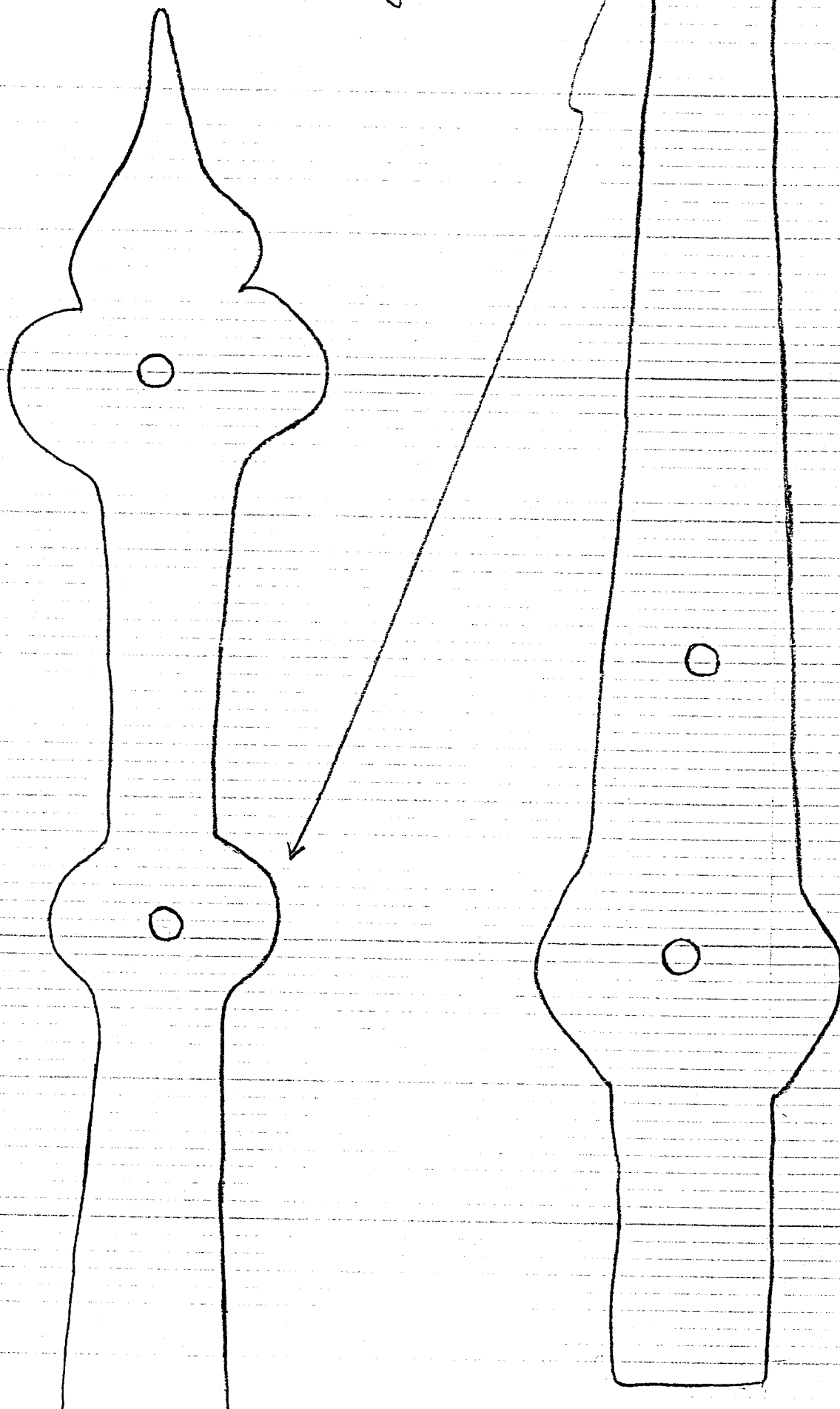
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2/4

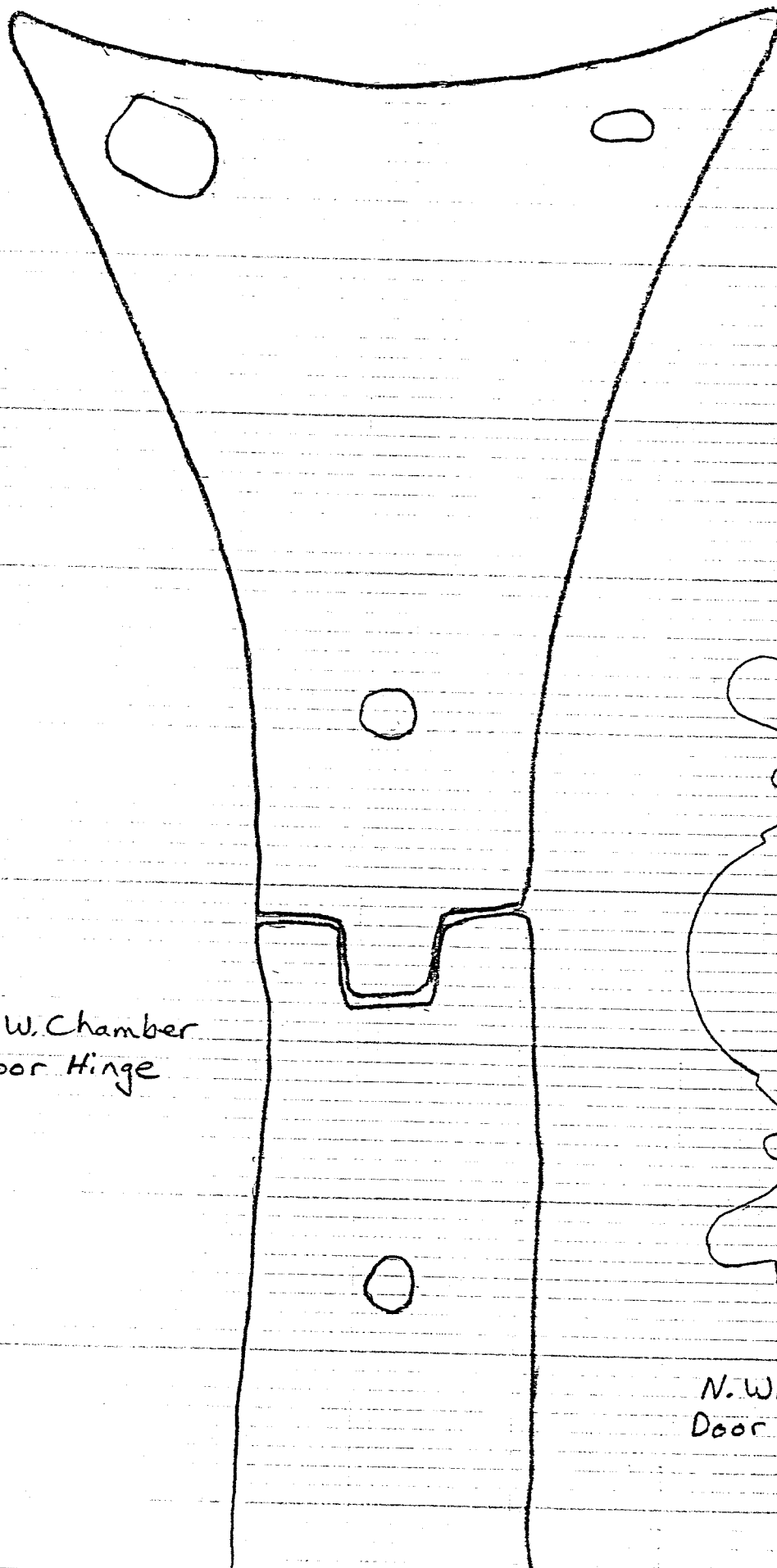
626 Francis Scott Key Hwy
Exterior Shutter Hinge

CARR-1583
KMS/4 Jun '9



3A/4 626 Francis Scott Key Hwy
Hardware

CARR-1583
KMS/4 Jun '9



N.W. Chamber
Door Hinge

N.W. Chamber
Door Escutcheon

3B/4

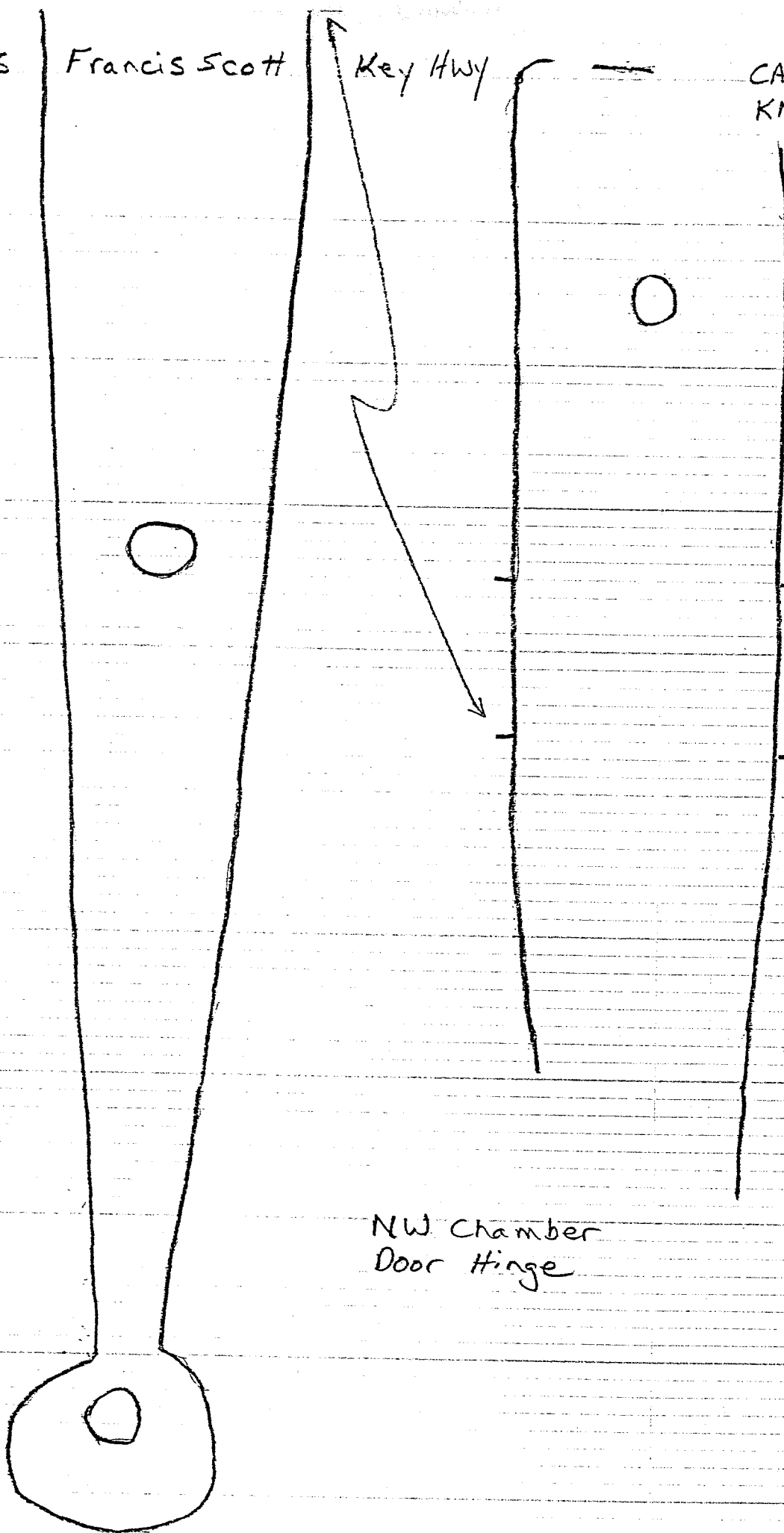
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Francis Scott

Key Hwy

CARR-1583

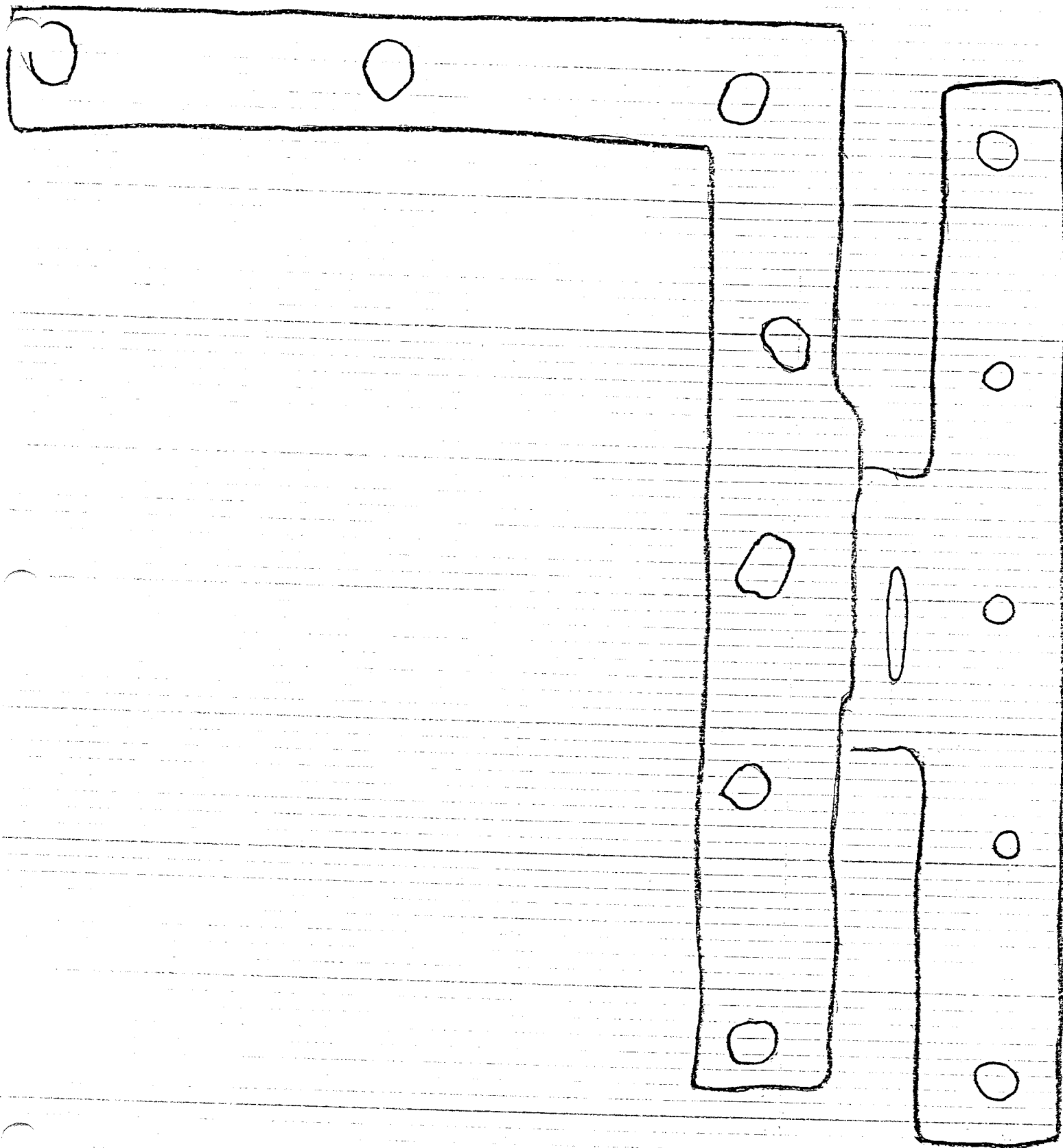
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4/4

626 Francis Scott Key Hwy
N. E. Chamber Door H/L Hinge

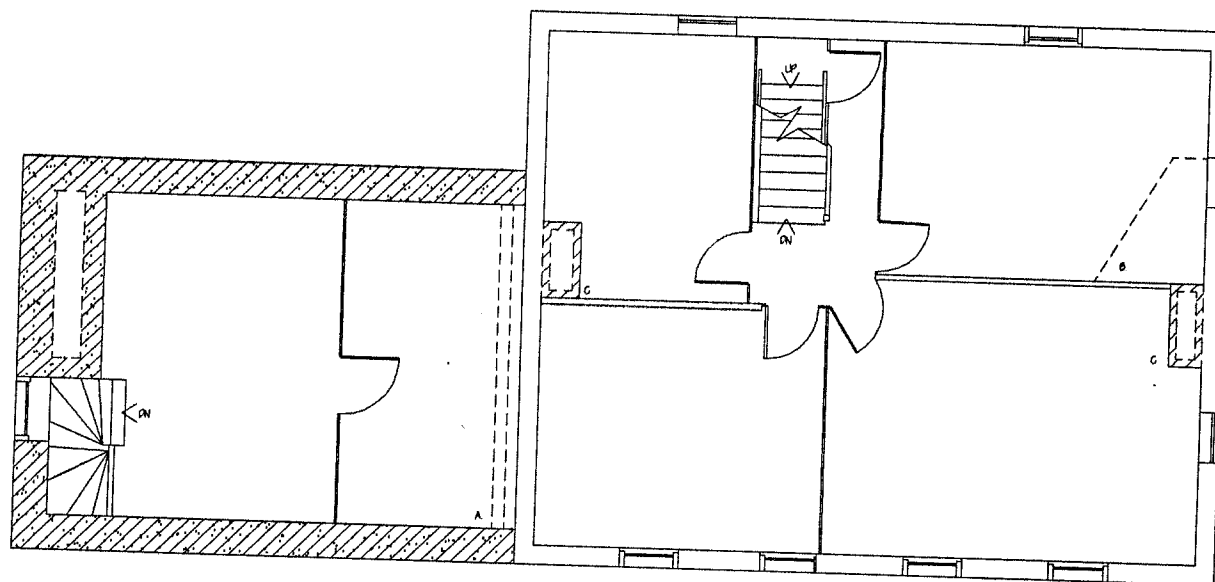
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KMS/4Jun '9



Broken and out
of alignment now.

NOTES

- A REFLECTED THE BEAM
- B LATEST IN PLACING OF EARLIER
- C CORNER FIREPLACE CHIMNEY
- D CHIMNEYS ADDED LATER



CARR-
1583

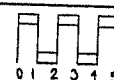
COVER'S TANNERY
626 FRANCIS SCOTT KEY HIGHWAY

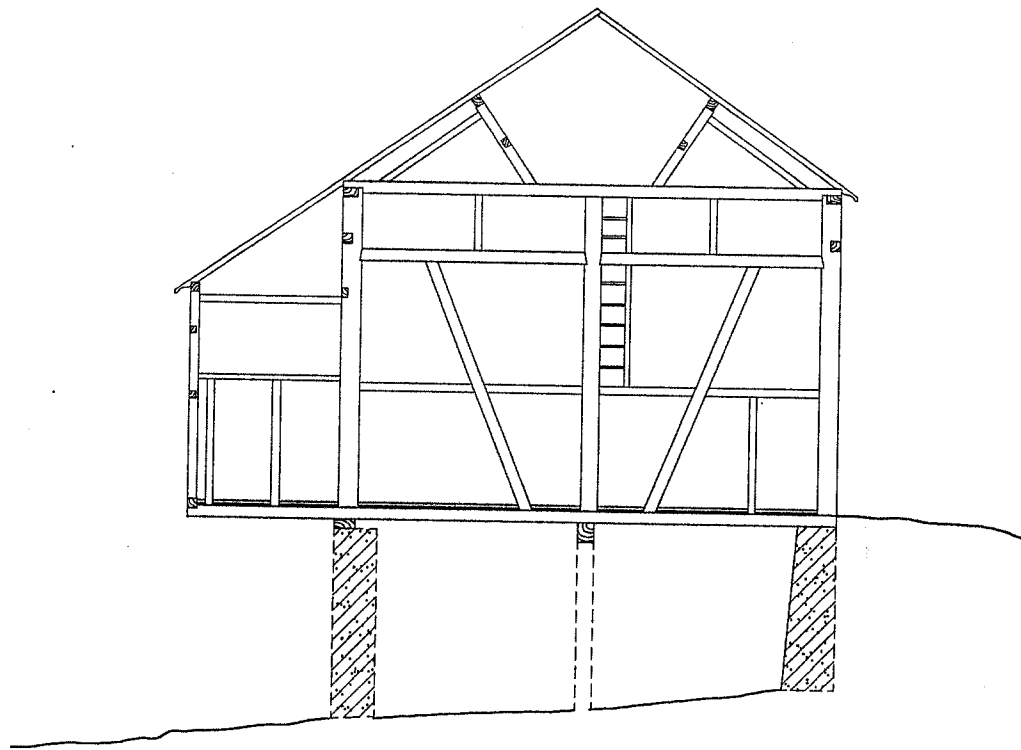
MEASURED BY KEN SHORT AND BARB LILLY


DRAWN BY KEN SHORT

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

AUGUST 1997



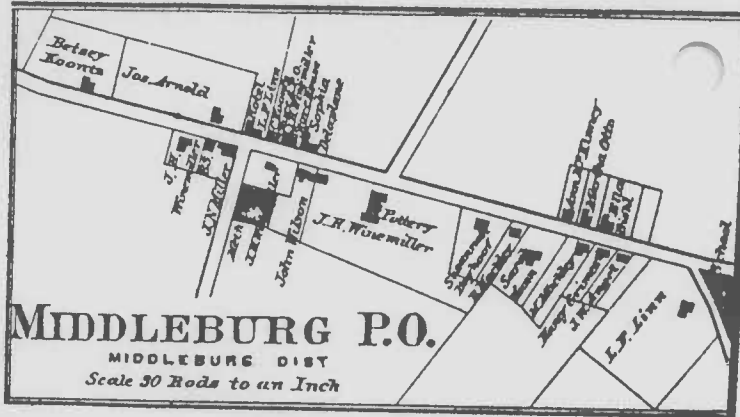


CARR- 1583	COVER'S TANNERY 626 FRANCIS SCOTT KEY HIGHWAY	MEASURED BY KEN SHORT AND BARB LILLY DRAWN BY KEN SHORT	COVER PLANNING SECTION AUGUST 1997	
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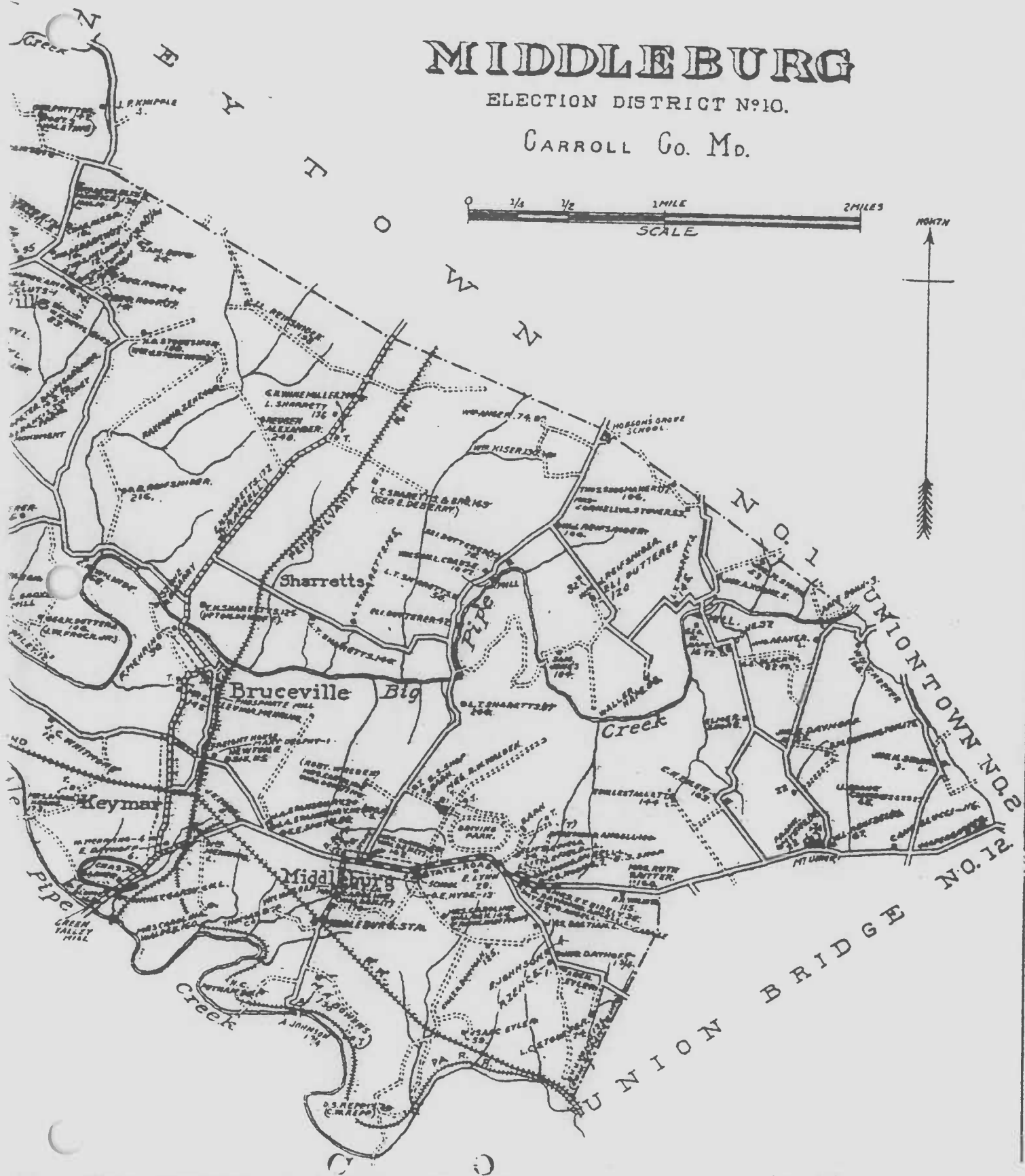
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 Cover's Tannery,
 626 Francis Scott Key Hwy, Keymar
 Lake, Griffing & Stevenson Atlas, 1877



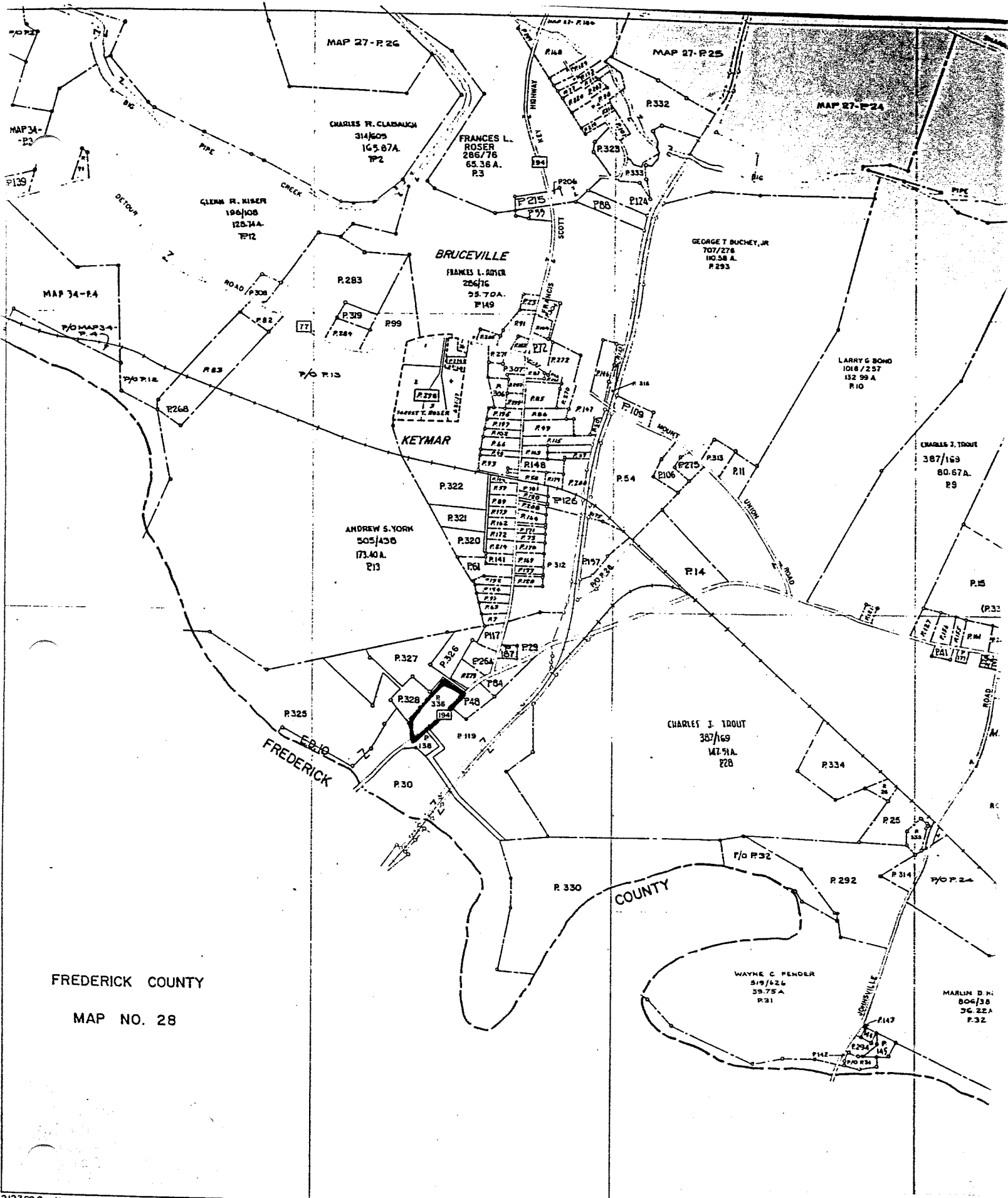
MIDDLEBURG
 DIST. NO 10
 Scale 2 Inches to the Mile



MIDDLEBURG BUSINESS REPLY.
REPLY.
 F. Mahring, Manufacturer of Phonographs and Records,
 Mills at Brucerville, York Road Post Office.
 David Hillbaldie, Forwarder and Commission Man-
 chest, York Road.



Carr 1583
 Cover's Tannery
 626 Francis Scott Key Hwy, Keymar
 Rand McNally Atlas, 1917



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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

